

## Beth Cotter

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**From:** Glenn Rawson <glennrawson1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 3:28 PM  
**To:** Beth Cotter  
**Subject:** Reform the CRMC

Dear Ms. Cotter,

The work of the Coastal Resources Management Council is extremely important to RI, and I urge you to support the following measures advocated by Save the Bay, who understands our coastal resources better than just about anyone:

1. Abolish the current Council structure, which requires no expertise or relevant background for membership. Abolishing the current council structure is the biggest step we can take toward reducing political influence within the agency, strengthening accountability and building public trust.
2. Hire a dedicated, full-time staff attorney with environmental expertise to represent staff at hearings. (Currently, the staff does not have an attorney at hearings and the Council hires private attorneys who have other clients and potential conflicts of interest.)
3. Appoint hearing officers. These are mandated by RI law, but these roles are currently vacant, leaving the politically-appointed council with the power to rule on controversial and contested cases.
4. Increase staff and funding, so that CRMC can reasonably handle its many responsibilities, including offshore wind and climate change, access to the shore for all, and enforcing the laws and rules that protect Rhode Island's coast.

Please consider this email part of the official record for the House CRMC Study Commission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glenn Rawson  
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